In the Claims

Claims 1. - 21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for effecting the evaporation of a volatile solvent contained in a container which is mounted in a vortex evaporator, comprising a recirculating system in sealed environment means containing an inert gas and connected to said container, a condensing device for ~~absorbing or extracting~~ condensing solvent vapor, and pump means for recirculating the inert gas via the condensing device, whereby solvent vapor entrained in the inert gas is ~~absorbed or extracted~~ condensed in the condensing device.

23. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 22 in which said container has an upper end into which the inert gas is directly returned.

24. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 23 further comprising nozzle means through which the inert gas is directed into the container directly onto the surface of the solvent in the container.

25. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 22 further comprising a pressure control means for introducing or extracting inert gas, in order to maintain a predetermined pressure in the recirculating system.

26. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 22 further comprising gas reservoir

means in which inert gas is stored under pressure for reuse as required, and pressure controlling means for limiting the pressure of the gas leaving the reservoir means to a desired level.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 22 in which the inert gas is nitrogen.

29. (Previously presented) Apparatus according to claim 22 further comprising heater means provided in the recirculating system downstream of said condensing device.

30. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~claim 9~~ claim 22 in which said container comprises an open top for accommodation in said sealed environment means.

31. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~claim 9~~ claim 22 comprising a plurality of solvent containers connected to a manifold through which the inert gas is recirculated.

32. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~claim 30~~ claim 31 in which the manifold is divided into two compartments, one being connected to a pump for extracting the mixture of the inert gas and solvent vapor and the other feeding recirculated inert gas from the condensing ~~or absorbing~~ device.

33. (New) Apparatus for effecting the evaporation of a volatile solvent contained in a

container, comprising sealed environment means containing an inert gas and connected to said container, a condensing device for condensing solvent vapor entrained in the inert gas is condensed in the condensing device, comprising a plurality of solvent containers connected to a manifold through which the inert gas is recirculated, in which the manifold is divided into two compartments, one being connected to a pump for extracting the mixture of the inert gas and solvent vapor and the other feeding recirculated inert gas from the condensing device.